



# SENATOR RUNNER'S WEEK IN REVIEW

A WEEKLY REVIEW THAT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AND UP-TO-DATE



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## Off-Reservation Casinos

This week Governor Schwarzenegger announced a new state tribal gaming compact with Big Lagoon Rancheria of Humboldt County and the Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians of San Diego County. Before the compact goes into effect, the Legislature must ratify the compact and the United States Secretary of the Interior must approve it.

This is an unprecedented compact as neither tribe has ancestral ties to the land designated for the casinos in the City of Barstow. Big Lagoon Rancheria is located in Humboldt County, which is over 500 miles from Barstow. The ancestral tribal lands for the Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians land is also over one hundred miles from Barstow. Neither of these tribes has a significant link to Barstow.

The voters passed both Proposition 1a and Proposition 5, which only allowed for gaming on reservations, and this compact would be a far stretch from the intent of these initiatives. Furthermore, the compact could potentially open the door for tribes to shop around for the best location and best deal for their casino, rather than using their ancestral tribal lands.

This compact is such an extraordinary expansion of gaming and it includes impacts beyond just the directly affected community that any demonstration of local support, I believe, must be through an advisory vote that includes surrounding affected communities.

While the City of Barstow may have made a deal that would financially benefit them, there are residents in communities near Barstow that would also be affected by these casinos. For example, affected communities that did not participate in the process will still feel the additional strains on transportation and law enforcement.

### News of the Week

[Governor Schwarzenegger's Office Says He Will Run For Reelection](#)

[Schools Unhappy with Latest Court Ruling on the Pledge of Allegiance](#)

[Governor Makes a Stop in the Antelope Valley](#)

[Sex Offender Legislation was Denied a Fair Hearing](#)

[Editorial: Casinos Toughest Fight Still to Come](#)

[Runner Views High Desert Issues](#)

[High Desert Local Economy Booming with Business Expansion](#)

[2005 Legislative Session Underscores Need for Real Reform](#)

Whether you agree with off-reservation gaming or not, I believe that a local advisory vote of the affected communities is critical. Therefore, I will be introducing legislation in January that will clearly define the parameters for these situations.

This compact could have serious long-term effects and at a minimum, the affected communities should have a chance to voice their opinion.

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